

EUDORA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



January 2014, Vol. 26

Written & edited by Ben Terwilliger

Message from the Executive Director: Ben Terwilliger

In many regards, 2013 was a landmark year for the Eudora Area Historical Society (EAHS). We kept busy all year and successfully completed many important projects.



The Trefz Buildings (720 Main Street). The future home of the Eudora Community Museum.

We made tremendous progress towards the rehabilitation of the Trefz buildings (720 Main Street), the future home of the Eudora Community Museum. I would like to thank everyone that made a financial contribution towards this project, they are much appreciated! I would also like to especially thank Bill Whitten, Bill Gordon, Benny Dean, Leonard Hollman and Lorene Cox for the many hours they volunteered towards this project.

We also kept busy with many other projects in 2013. We updated the EAHS Constitution and the Collection's Policy. We continued to improve the exhibits, added to our collections, expanded our community outreach and welcomed nearly one thousand visitors to the museum.

I feel privileged to serve as the Executive Director of the EAHS. I greatly look forward to the many more important goals we will achieve in 2014. With the EAHS Board, I will continue to provide the EAHS with vision and leadership and will follow the goals and ideals of our Mission Statement and newly ratified Constitution.

If you are not a member, we would love to welcome you as a new member! Please tell everyone to visit our museum. And keep an eye out for Eudora related artifacts we could add to our collections. I hope you have a great 2014!

-Ben

Updates on the Rehabilitation of the Trefz Buildings for use as the Eudora Community Museum



View of 720 Main Street, circa 1930.

The Trefz buildings (720 Main Street) were officially donated to the EAHS from Pam (Trefz) Staab on March 22, 2013. We are very grateful for Pam's generosity and her efforts to help

preserve Eudora's History and the Historic character of Eudora's Main Street.

Within a month of securing title to the buildings, work on the rehabilitation began. First, volunteers removed decade's worth of junk that accumulated in the buildings. Next, the buildings were cleaned and all doors and windows secured. Following that step, the first floor was leveled with gravel and masonry repairs commenced.

In the last few months, plans have been developed to complete the needed structural repairs. Within the next few months, we will complete structural work and work on repairs to the roof. After that, we will connect utilities to the buildings and lay cement for the floor.



Interior view of the Trefz Buildings, future home of the Eudora Community Museum.

This project essentially has two phases. Phase 1 will rehabilitate the first floor of the buildings for use as the Eudora Community Museum. Phase 2 will rehabilitate the second floor for use as storage for our archival collections and will also be public research space. We hope to accomplish Phase 1 by 2015 and Phase 2 within several years after 2015.

We have submitted our nomination of the Trefz buildings to be on the Kansas Register of Historic Places. We view inclusion with the State Register as important because it will help preserve the historic character of the building.

Fundraising for this project has been very successful. We were amazed and grateful for the widespread community support for this project. Through grants and donations, we have raised over \$100,000 for this project, more than half the expected total costs. In addition to the monetary donations, we were given thousands of dollars worth of donated goods and services.

In 2014 we will need volunteer labor for this project more than anything else. If you, or anyone you know can help us rehabilitate these buildings, please contact us, **785-690-7900**.

This project is an investment which will have long term benefits for the community. This project will help preserve the History of Eudora and will contribute to the efforts to preserve and revitalize Eudora's Main Street. While 2013 has been a great year for us, we anticipate 2014 will be an even better year with even more progress.

Donations Always Appreciated



The Eudora Community Museum at its Nottingham Elementary Location (1428 Church Street).

We are grateful for all donations made to the EAHS! Every donation truly makes a difference and not only helps us preserve the History of the Eudora area, but serves the whole community.

The operational expenses of the EAHS are entirely funded by private donations. In the last several years we have expanded our operations. That also means our operational costs have expanded as well. The basic operational costs for the EAHS include utility payments, insurance

payments and some basic supplies. We operate on a very conservative budget.

The yearly membership dues are enormously helpful. While paying your dues this year, please consider giving additional funds for our operational expenses. It really will make a difference and help us continue to grow as an organization and serve the community.

Please consider adding the EAHS to your Estate planning as well. The EAHS is a great opportunity for you to pass on your values and Eudora's History to subsequent generations.

Treasurer's Report

(As of January 1, 2014)

EAHS Operational Accounts:

Checking	\$2,484
Savings	\$3,380
CDs	\$3,605

Total:	\$9,469
--------	---------

Museum Rehabilitation Account:

Grant account	\$31,100.63
---------------	-------------

Programs for 2014

January 16, 7:30pm, Eudora City Hall

Former Eudora City Fire Chief Benny Dean will present on the Eudora Lumberyard Fire of 1990.

March 20, 7:30pm, Eudora City Hall

Program to be announced.

May 15, 7:30pm, Eudora City Hall

Program to be announced.

July 17, 7:30pm, Eudora City Hall

Program to be announced.

September 18, 7:30pm, Eudora City Hall

Program to be announced.

November 20, 7:30pm, Eudora City Hall

Program to be announced.

EAHS Elections

The Officers and Directors elected for the year 2014 are as follows:

Officers:

President:	Steven Neis
Vice President:	Benny Dean
Treasurer:	Jim Harris
Secretary:	Alissa Meehan

Area Directors:

Clearfield:	John More
Eudora:	Debbie Carden
Fall Leaf:	Kevin Reetz
Hesper:	Bill Gordon
Prairie Center:	Benny Dean
Weaver:	Lorene Cox

President Wineinger Retires

The next time you see former EAHS President Glenn Wineinger, make sure to thank him for his many years of service! Before recently retiring from the EAHS Board, Glenn served on the EAHS Board continuously from 1980 to 2013. He spent 12 years as the Prairie Center Director, 5 years as Treasurer, 8 years as Vice President and 9 years as President. We all owe Glenn a huge debt of gratitude!

Message from the President-elect

I would like to thank everyone for electing me President of the EAHS. I would also like to thank Glenn Wineinger for his service as President and his long dedication to the EAHS. The EAHS has had an exciting 2013, thanks to the generous donation of the Trefz buildings (720 Main Street) to us from Pam Staab. Rehabilitation has begun, but work and funds are still much needed. Once completed, we will have a permanent location for our museum. As President I will work hard to make our dream of a museum on Main Street a reality. Thanks again for electing me and I look forward to an even more successful 2014!

-Steven Neis

Museum Visitation

We had another great year at the Eudora Community Museum in terms of visitation. Nearly a thousand visitors toured our museum in 2013. There was a noticeable increase in visitors from outside of the Eudora area this year. We made efforts to advertise our museum throughout the region and those efforts paid off as we brought outside visitors into the community.



3rd Grade students from Eudora Elementary, Oct. 2013.

Around 240 children visited the museum in 2013 through field trips, school groups and youth groups. The entire 3rd grade from Eudora Elementary School and the entire 7th grade from Eudora Middle School visited the museum in 2013 for a series of standards based field trips. We believe educating Eudora's students about the History of their community is very important.

Our community outreach is not only limited to visitors to the museum. We hosted six Programs in 2013 that were well attended. The internet has continued to help the EAHS reach a greater audience as well. Our Facebook page is updated regularly and reaches hundreds, sometimes thousands of people every week.

Exhibition and Collections Updates

The EAHS exists to serve the public. We want to make visitor's experiences to our museum entertaining and educational. Therefore, exhibit development is very important to us. We continue

to improve our exhibits and add to our historic collections. This year several excellent museum display cases were donated to the EAHS. These cases help us display our artifacts better.

We continue to improve our labels and signage throughout the museum, but much work still needs to be done. In 2013 Significant improvements have been made to the Eudora Odd-fellows, Sunflower Ammunition Plant and Sinclair Pumping Station exhibits and labels.

Many excellent artifacts were donated to the EAHS this year. Some of these artifacts include:

- A cheerleading outfit from Eudora Junior High School from the 1960s.
- Well preserved calendars of Eudora businesses from the 1910s-1930s.
- A section of the utility pole from 7th and Main Streets that contains THOUSANDS of nails from fliers/notices over the years.
- A framed picture of the Eudora Rail Depot.



Collection of Arrowheads, bullets and beads from a nearby former Delaware Indian settlement.

Lorene Cox was kind enough to loan several very neat artifacts that we now have on display. These artifacts include arrowheads, pottery fragments, bowl fragments, other tools that were collected just north of Eudora along the Turkey Creek and Kansas River. The Delaware Indians lived north of the Kansas River from the 1820s until the 1850s. The Kansa Indians lived in that region prior to the 1820s. These Native American items are likely from the Delaware and Kansa tribes. Make sure to visit the museum and see these Native American artifacts while they are here!

To join or renew your membership, or to make a donation, please provide the following information and return this form with your payment to:

**Eudora Area Historical Society
PO Box 158
Eudora, Kansas 66025**

Name_____Date_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Phone No._____Email_____

Membership Type (check one):

☐ Individual \$10.00

☐ Contributing \$25.00

☐ Business \$50.00

☐ Sustaining \$50.00

☐ Lifetime \$200.00

Please check all that applies:

☐ New Member ☐ Membership Renewal ☐ Donation

☐ Cash ☐ Check Amount enclosed \$_____

Other Donations:

☐ I wish to make a donation to the EAHS operational general fund.

☐ Cash ☐ Check Amount enclosed \$_____

☐ I wish to make a donation to the project to restore the Trefz Buildings (720 Main Street) for use of the Eudora Community Museum.

☐ Cash ☐ Check Amount enclosed \$_____

Information for the Eudora Community Museum

Location

1428 Church Street, Eudora, KS.
(The former Nottingham
Elementary building.)

Hours

Typically open Tuesdays through
Saturdays from 10am to 5pm.

Contact

EudoraHistory@gmail.com

785-690-7900

Mailing

Eudora Area Historical Society
PO Box 158
Eudora, KS 66025

Online

City of Eudora's website, direct link:
[www.cityofeudoraks.gov/
index.aspx?NID=100](http://www.cityofeudoraks.gov/index.aspx?NID=100)

**“Like” the EAHS on
Facebook!**

Eudora Area Historical Society
PO Box 158
Eudora, KS 66025

EAHS Newsletter 2014

